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Wednesday, November 4, 2015 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork



FIRST LOOK: BALMAIN X H&M

What you need to know before starting your shopping tomorrow. 22

Ryan Devlin coaches clueless singles. 21

Knicks rookie Porzingis is no joke. 30

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BUG JUICE

Bushwick women raise \$16K on Kickstarter to create cricket-based cocktail bitters. 4



LUCY KNOPS

VATICAN LAUNDERING

1 Vatican financial investigators suspect a department of the Holy See was used in the past for possible money laundering, insider trading and market manipulation, according to a report. The information has been passed on to Italian and Swiss investigators because some activity tied to the accounts allegedly took place in these countries. **REUTERS**



RELIGIOUS BELIEFS DROP

2 Americans are becoming less religious, judging by such markers as church attendance, prayer and belief in God, and the trend is more pronounced among young adults, according to a poll released Tuesday. The share of U.S. adults who say they believe in God, while still high compared with other advanced industrial countries, slipped to 89 percent in 2014 from 92 percent in 2007, according to the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study. **REUTERS**

CHIPOTLE SUED

3 Charmaine Denise Mode, of Kelso, Washington, has sued Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. for more than \$75,000, saying that she was infected with E. coli as a result of a meal at the chain restaurant. Chipotle has closed 43 restaurants in Washington and Oregon. The lawsuit cites at least 22 confirmed cases. **REUTERS**



7 **THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

DECISION 2015

7 What would have been an even sleepier election night in 2015 saw some action Tuesday in two New York City-area districts thanks to resignations in the state Legislature tied to corruption scandals. Four local races in Queens and Staten Island were also particularly competitive, as voters elected new district attorneys and two new City Council members in both boroughs.

BESS ADLER (ABOVE), ALL OTHER PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

GRIZZLIES PROTECTION

4 Federal wildlife managers have determined that grizzly bear numbers in and around Yellowstone National Park have rebounded sufficiently to propose stripping the animals of U.S. Endangered Species Act protections in the months ahead. The estimated population is just over 750 bears. **REUTERS**



UBER DRIVER GETS LIFE

5 A Delhi court on Tuesday jailed a driver of U.S.-based ride-hailing company Uber for life for raping a passenger, in a case that highlighted the dangers faced by women from violent sex attackers. Driver Shiv Kumar Yadav received the maximum sentence after he was found guilty last month of the rape, kidnapping and criminal intimidation of the woman, who had hailed a ride home from a party in Delhi last December. Yadav got his job with Uber with fake references, enabling him to hide his criminal record. **REUTERS**

HISTORIC MEETING

6 The leaders of Taiwan and China will meet in Singapore on Saturday to exchange views on cross-strait issues, Taiwan's presidential office said, in the first meeting of leaders from the two sides since the Chinese civil war ended. Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou will fly to Singapore to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping. **REUTERS**



Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou



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The chitinous ingredients LUCY KNOPS

Bushwick women raise \$16K for drinks infused with crickets

Critter Bitters hopes to reach its \$21,000 goal via Kickstarter.



WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

said Plevin, who has since moved back to her native California. "You can get cricket tacos in New York City, but it's still very rare. It's about getting people excited about having a drink with cricket bitters, then maybe trying cricket canapes."

Right now, Knops, who is also a bartender, is making the bitters in her Bushwick apartment. Critter Bitters uses a Texas distributor for the pre-roasted food-grade insects.

They are not aware of any local cricket suppliers, but said there is a movement toward eating insects, as well as kits that help you raise your own crickets.

"I wouldn't be surprised if you see rooftop cricket farms before too long."

Knops

"I wouldn't be surprised if you see rooftop cricket farms before too long," Knops said.

The campaign wraps up Nov. 21, and Knops and Plevin are hoping to raise \$21,000 to get into an FDA-approved kitchen, buy material in bulk and work on packaging. Those who donate will receive a preorder batch of the bitters.

The product is not yet available for purchase because of regulation on both the alcohol and insect aspects of the recipe.

"We also want people to find out how awesome they taste," Plevin said, adding mixologists will likely be excited by the sweet nutty and vanilla notes.



Knops and Plevin



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BRIEFS

Transportation Alternatives wants the AP to use "crash" instead of "accident" Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets are calling on the Associated Press to start referring to traffic collisions as "crashes" instead of "accidents."

The advocacy group has formally submitted the suggestion to the AP for the 2016 stylebook. The AP, the journalistic style standard, announced Oct. 26 it was starting to work on the new guide. An online petition to use "crash" instead of "accident" was launched last summer, and had more than 2,200 signatures as of Tuesday. The group hopes to reach 20,000.

"A seemingly 'simple' word can change a life," Transportation Alternatives said in a press release.

"Traffic crashes are fixable problems, caused by dangerous streets and unsafe drivers. They are not accidents. Let's stop using the word 'accident' today."

Paul Colford, the AP's vice president and director of media Relations, told Metro the organization reviews "all suggestions that are submitted."

The AP does not have clear guidance for or against using the term accident. **WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE**

MTA bus driver arrested in 70-year-old woman's death

Advocates say they firmly believe the driver failed to yield to the victim.



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People board a city bus. GETTY IMAGES

Police arrested the driver thought to be behind the wheel of an out-of-service MTA bus that killed a 70-year-old woman in a hit-and-run in Brooklyn on Tuesday.

Pedestrian-rights advocates said they firmly believe the death was avoidable.

Paul Steely White, executive director of Transportation Alternatives, told Metro that the driver had an obligation to yield to the woman, who was crossing Fulton Street at Sackman Street at around

6:15 a.m.

White acknowledged the need for the police investigation, but described anyone who would hit a pedestrian and drive away from the scene as an "uncaring driver."

"As of right now, we can say absolutely that she had the right of way," he said. "It's very clear that the driver had an absolute responsibility

to yield to that woman."

The driver, who was not officially identified Tuesday afternoon, allegedly turned onto Fulton Street as the woman, identified by the New York Post as Carol Bell, used her wheeled walker to cross the street.

Paramedics said she died at the scene not long after being struck.

"The bus was not in service at the time,"

said MTA spokeswoman Amanda Kwan, adding that it had completed its B15 route and was on the way to the agency's East New York depot.

"This is a terrible tragedy, and our hearts and prayers go out to all family and friends," said John Samuels, president of the Transit Workers Union Local 100, which represents bus drivers. "We will closely follow the investigation, which is in a very early stage."

Earlier this year, the TWU launched a media campaign targeting the Mayor Bill de Blasio and his Vision Zero plan to drive down traffic-related deaths across the city.

The union at the time accused the mayor of "criminalizing an entire class of hard-working, law-abiding union-

"As of right now, we can say absolutely that she had the right of way." White

ized workers" after six MTA bus drivers were charged with misdemeanors thanks to a 2014 law that increased penalties for injuring or killing pedestrians with the right of way.

In September, the city modified the understanding of the law to say that charges against drivers must demonstrate that they failed to both yield and exercise due care.

A spokesman for the mayor's office did not respond to requests for comment.

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BRIEF

Brooklyn man killed after trying to prevent corner store robbery: Police

A Brooklyn man who tried to stop two armed men from robbing a corner store in Brooklyn ended up dead last week, police said Tuesday.

Authorities reported that Damon Francis, 32, was inside the 560 Grocery and Food Store in East Flatbush Oct. 27 when two unidentified men walked in at around 9:30 p.m.

One of the men suddenly flashed a gun and approached the store clerk, demanding money from the cash register.

That's when investigators said Francis tried to step in to stop the crime, only to be met with a single gun shot to his chest.

The gunman immediately reached over the counter and took an undisclosed amount of money before he and his accomplice ran away from the store along Remsen Avenue.

Cops and EMS arrived shortly thereafter, and paramedics rushed Francis to Brookdale Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

METRO



Sheldon Silver, left, leaves the courthouse. GETTY IMAGES

Silver 'betrayed' people for own profit: prosecutors

Sheldon Silver, one of New York State's most influential lawmakers for two decades, abused his position to earn millions of dollars in illegal kickbacks, federal prosecutors told a jury Tuesday.

"This is a case about a powerful politician who betrayed those he was supposed to serve in order to line his own pockets," Assistant U.S. Attorney Carrie Cohen said as Silver's criminal trial began in a Manhattan courthouse, just steps from the Lower East Side district that Silver has represented in the state Assembly since 1976.

But Silver's defense lawyer, Steven Molo, said prosecutors had "twisted" the normal negotiations and compromises that allow government to function into a crime.

"If the prosecutors don't like that system, they can do what democracies do: They can go to the people and seek change," he said. "Make no mistake: Mr. Silver did not sell his office."

The case is New York's highest-profile corruption trial to emerge from the recent years of scandals that have ensnared dozens of state lawmakers.

As speaker of the Assembly, Silver, a

Democrat, was one of the "three men in a room," along with the Senate majority leader and the governor, who essentially control all legislative business in Albany. Dean Skelos, a Republican who served as Senate majority leader until his arrest earlier this year, is scheduled to go on trial for corruption in the same courthouse later this month.

Underscoring the stakes, Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan whose office is prosecuting Silver, 71, and Skelos, watched from the rear of the courtroom.

Prosecutors say Silver earned \$3 million in bogus fees for referring asbestos sufferers sent to him by a doctor to a personal injury law firm. The doctor secretly received \$500,000 in taxpayer money at Silver's direction for his cancer research center, prosecutors say.

In addition, Silver is charged with collecting \$700,000 in kickbacks for steering real estate developers to another law firm. The developers, prosecutors said, hired the firm in exchange for support from Silver on key legislation.

REUTERS

"This is a case about a powerful politician who betrayed those he was supposed to serve in order to line his own pockets."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Carrie Cohen



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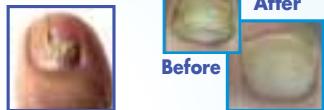


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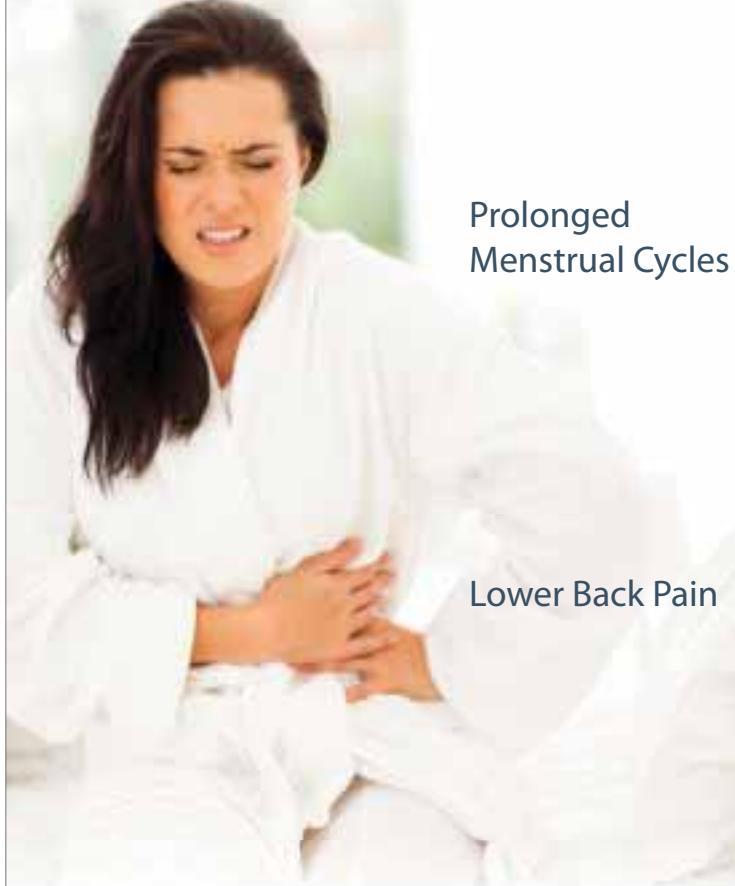
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GOP trusts Trump

In the wake of the third debate, candidate finding favor with Republicans.

Donald Trump is the Republican candidate most trusted to manage the economy, deal with foreign leaders and serve as commander in chief, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll of Republicans conducted after the party's third debate.

And more Republicans would trust him with the nation's nuclear weapons than most of the rest of their party's presidential primary field.

In terms of overall support, Trump was favored by 31 percent of Republicans polled by Reuters/Ipsos in an online survey conducted Oct. 28 to Nov. 2 that had a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson placed second with 18 percent.

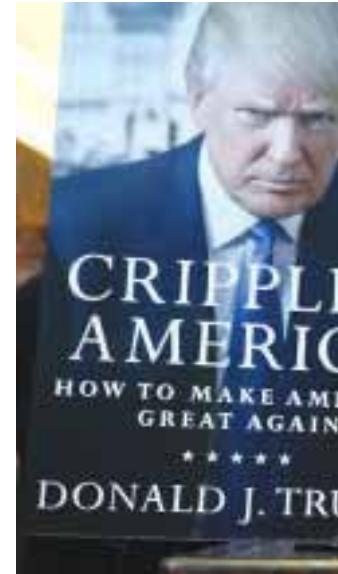
Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and former Gov. Jeb Bush tied for third place with 10 percent each.

For anyone still confused about why Trump is holding strong onto a double-digit lead in most presidential primary polls, look no further than at how much Republican voters trust him: Trump's campaign message — that his experience in business means voters should pick him to negotiate trade deals or take on Russia's Vladimir Putin — is resonating.

On the question of whether voters trust the candidates to manage the economy, 59 percent said "yes" to Trump.

None of the other Republican candidates came close. Carson was second, with 36 percent saying they trust him to manage the economy. Rubio was third with 27 percent, followed by retired business executive Carly Fiorina at 25 percent.

It's not just on the



economy where Trump shines. Asked whether they trusted the various Republican candidates to be commander in chief, Trump and Carson were tied, at 40 percent each.

On the question of whom they trusted to

Russia stance on Assad suggests divergence with Iran

Russia does not see keeping Bashar al-Assad in power as a matter of principle, the Foreign Ministry in Moscow said Tuesday in comments that suggested a divergence of opinion with Iran, the Syrian president's other main international backer.

Fueling speculation of Russian-Iranian differences over Assad, the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps suggested Monday that Tehran may be more committed to him than Moscow was.

However, one senior regional official cautioned against reading too much into the public statements on Assad, saying there is no difference between Russia and Iran over him. They agree on his staying in office, and that it is up to the Syrian people to elect their president, the official said.

Russia and Iran agreed on his staying in office, and that it was up to the



Syrians evacuate people from damaged buildings following the Russian air-strikes on the Mashhad neighborhood of Aleppo, Syria on Nov. 3. GETTY IMAGES

Syrian people to elect their president.

While Russia and Iran have been Assad's foremost foreign supporters during Syria's 4-year-old war, the United States, its Gulf allies and Turkey have insisted the president must step down as part of any eventual peace deal.

Talks in Vienna on Friday among the main foreign players involved in diplomatic efforts on Syria failed to reach agreement on Assad.

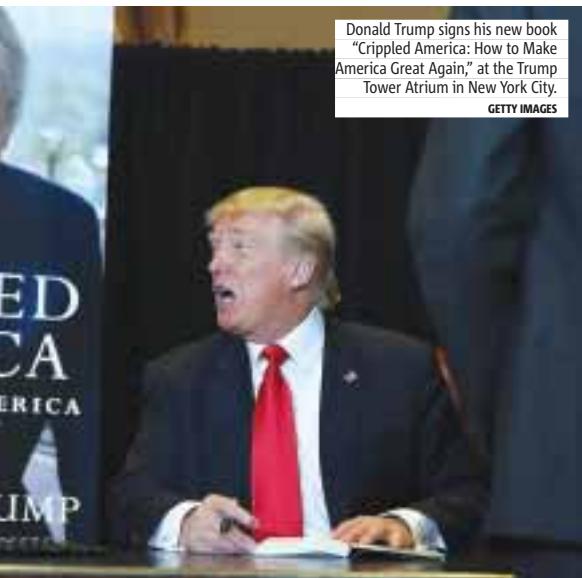
Asked by a reporter

Tuesday if saving Assad was a matter of principle for Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said: "Absolutely not, we never said that."

"We are not saying that Assad should leave or stay," RIA news agency quoted her as saying.

But another regime change in the Middle East could be a catastrophe that "could simply turn the whole region into a large black hole," she added. REUTERS

on economy: poll



Donald Trump signs his new book "Crippled America: How to Make America Great Again," at the Trump Tower Atrium in New York City.
GETTY IMAGES

deal with foreign leaders, Trump again got top marks, with 41 percent saying they would trust the New York real estate mogul. Carson was a close second at 39 percent. Rubio, who has made foreign policy a central part of his cam-

paign and stressed his experience on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was third at 31 percent.

Asked about handling the nation's nuclear weapons — another insight into voters' views on foreign policy — 34

percent of Republicans said they would trust Trump.

He trailed only Carson, with 39 percent saying they would trust Carson to have his finger on the proverbial button. Only 27 percent said they would trust Rubio.

When it comes to the Oct. 28 debate, of those Republicans polled, a plurality, or 22 percent, thought Trump won.

The poll appeared to show Trump and Carson garnering the most benefit from the debates.

Of the Republicans polled, 31 percent said the debate changed their opinion about Carson and made it more positive. The same was said by 29 percent about Trump, but 22 percent said they had a more negative attitude of him afterward.

The debate may have done the most damage to Bush. Twenty-nine percent said after the debate they had a more negative view of Bush.

REUTERS



No slacking in Brazil

Participants balance on slacklines set up between rocks in the Cantagalo favela community during the Highgirls Brasil festival in Rio de Janeiro. The event was female-focused and allowed men to participate in female attire. GETTY IMAGES



BRIEFS

Fight to bare arms: Eight Virginia officers injured in fight with a naked man

Eight Virginia police officers were recovering Tuesday from injuries during an attack by a naked man who allegedly set fire to his apartment, police said.

The incident took place when Fairfax County police officers responded to a domestic in-

cident Monday at an apartment in Fairfax, a Washington suburb, police said in a statement.

Hussani White, 26, of Fairfax, who was naked, allegedly attacked two officers in a stairwell and hit them several times. He dragged an officer down a flight of stairs, police said.

More officers responded, and pepper spray was used on White. He allegedly stuffed elec-

tronics and other items into his oven and set fire to the kitchen just before police arrived.

Five officers were treated for pepper spray exposure, smoke inhalation and other injuries, the statement said.

Three other officers were checked for smoke inhalation at a hospital. White was charged with assault and attempted arson. REUTERS

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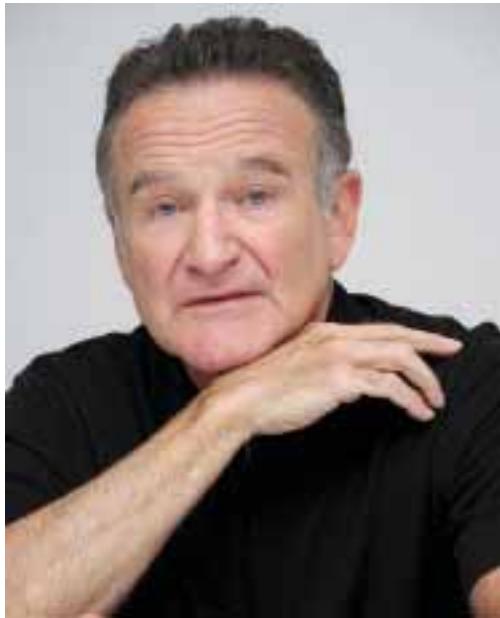
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Widow: Robin Williams was ‘disintegrating’ before suicide



Robin Williams GETTY IMAGES

Susan Williams describes actor's health conditions in her first interview since his death.

Comedian Robin Williams had been planning to undergo neurological testing the week before he committed suicide last year, and likely only had three years to live, his widow said Tuesday.

In her first interview since Williams hanged himself at their California home, Susan Williams described how the "Good Morning, Vietnam" Oscar winner was "just disintegrating" physically and mentally in the months before his death.

Williams died in August 2014 at age 63, three

months after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He was showing symptoms including stiffness, slumping gait and confusion, she told ABC's "Good Morning America."

An autopsy found Williams also had Lewy body dementia, which causes a progressive decline in mental abilities, his widow said.

"If Robin was lucky, he would've had maybe three years left. And they would've been hard years. And it's a good chance he would've been locked up," she said, referring to a doctor's prognosis for the comedian.

After a lifetime of struggles with addiction, Williams had been "completely clean and sober" in the eight years before his death, but his chronic depression had returned

"If Robin was lucky, he would've had three years left"

Susan Williams

along with paranoia, Susan Williams added.

The beloved actor was aware he was losing his mind and although he was keeping it together "in the last month he could not. It was like the dam broke," his widow told ABC. The last week of his life doctors were planning to check him into a facility for neurocognitive testing, she said.

But he never talked about taking his own life, Susan Williams said.

In the tearful interview, she recalled their last affectionate conversation the night before the actor took his own life, and how she raced home from work after he was discovered by an assistant the following morning.

"I just wanted to see my husband. And I got to see him ... and I got to pray with him. And I got to tell him, 'I forgive you 50 billion percent, with all my heart. You're the bravest man I've ever known.' You know, we were living a nightmare," she said.

The actor's third wife was speaking out after reaching a settlement last month with his three children from previous relationships that ended a bitter dispute over his estate and the dividing up of his belongings.

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Twitter changes stars to hearts, but gets no love from its users

There's a new "favorite" icon.

Twitter has replaced its star-shaped "favorite" icon with a heart-shaped icon called "like," its latest effort to make its microblogging platform more engaging.

The company, facing slowing user-growth, joins Facebook and Google's YouTube in featuring "like" buttons, which have been popular with millions of users.

Instagram, the photo-sharing app bought by Facebook in 2012, also has a heart-shaped icon for users to "like" pictures.

James Cakmak, an analyst at brokerage Monness, Crespi, Hardt & Co., said he thought Twitter was trying to make its site more consistent with experiences on other platforms.

"It's not going to move the needle in any material way," he said, referring to the company's efforts to boost user growth.

The modification fits with Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey's drive to improve user engagement.

Dorsey, who became

"You might like a lot of things, but not everything can be your favorite."

Twitter blog post

times the star could be confusing, especially to newcomers."

The heart, on the other hand, is a universal symbol and more expressive, Twitter said.

Many Twitter users scorned the change, and a hashtag called #WeWantFabButtonBack quickly appeared.

"Changing @Twitter's star to a heart is the worst product decision in the history of the internet; makes

a bookmark into an endorsement," tweeted user Jason.

"You Facebookeed my Twitter?" user Scott T. Smith tweeted.

Twitter investor Chris Sacca, of Lowercase Capital LLC, had suggested using hearts in a June blog post titled "What Twitter Can Be."

"If Twitter integrated a simple heart gesture into each Tweet, engagement

BRIEF

Google says an EU antitrust fine would be "inappropriate"

Google has hit back at EU antitrust regulators' warning of a possible hefty fine, saying this would be inappropriate because of the unusual nature of the case and its willingness to settle the case with concessions last year.

In its reply to the commission's April charge sheet, Google also faulted regulators for not taking

into account the fact that it was offering a free search service.

The company's robust defense came after the commission accused it of distorting search results to favor its shopping service, harming both rivals and users, following a five-year investigation.

The company said there was no basis for a sanction, according to a redacted version of its reply.

"Imposing a fine in the present

case would be inappropriate. The novelty of the statement of objections' theory, the selection of the case for commitment negotiation and Google's good faith participating in these negotiations militate against the imposition of a fine," the document said.

Google said it should not be charged with abusing its dominance in Europe as it provided a free search service. REUTER

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One social media change has been met with an antisocial response. GETTY IMAGES

across the entire service would explode," he wrote, adding that "favorite" was too strong a word.

Twitter's tweak is the latest by a social media company in the never-ending drive to improve user engagement.

Facebook said last

month it was testing "reactions," a range of seven animated emoticons to help users express emotions including love, sympathy, anger and sadness.

The "like" icon is also available on Twitter's video streaming service.

REUTERS

BRIEF

Activision Blizzard buys "Candy Crush" maker in mobile push
Video game maker Activision Blizzard will buy "Candy Crush Saga" creator King Digital Entertainment for \$5.9 billion as the heavyweight of console and PC-gaming makes a major push into the faster-growing mobile market.

The deal is one of the biggest in the industry in recent years, more than twice the size of Microsoft Inc.'s \$2.5 billion purchase of "Minecraft" maker Mojang last year, and the biggest acquisition of a mobile gaming company.

The failure of Dublin-based King to replicate the success of "Candy Crush" with follow-up titles such as "Farm Heroes" and "Pet Rescue" has led some investors to think it may be a one-hit wonder.

But Activision, whose shares were down 0.5 percent at \$34.43 in early trading, is betting its experience in sustaining long-running blockbuster franchises like "Call of Duty" and "World of Warcraft" can help it develop new hit series.

Cowen & Co. analysts described the deal as "an absolute steal," but others said they were skeptical.

"The combination increases Activision's scope and scale, but more importantly gives the company another top-quality [intellectual property] creator," the Cowen analysts wrote.

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By Matt Edgar-Health Writer

Manhattan - In just a moment I'm going to tell you about a very "candid" and somewhat embarrassing moment I had with a doctor.

A moment most doctors would not want you to know about.

As I reveal what happened in that moment - it will become clear to you not only why this doctor has so much success treating knee arthritis pain... but you will also discover a possible way to relieve some or all of your pain, too.

But before I tell you all that - let me ask you this: How would you like to finally have a real medical solution for your knee arthritis pain?

Not some scam sold on an infomercial or the internet. **A real medical treatment that has already worked for countless people just like you and is covered by most insurance and medicare?**

Can you imagine what it would feel like to be able to eliminate enough of your pain and stiffness so you can get out of bed without pain and go for walks and even do things like play golf or tennis?

How relieved would you be if you felt so much better that you no longer needed to go through total knee replacement surgery and all the grueling rehabilitation?

Sounds Too Good To Be True?

I'm glad we agree. It does sound too good to be true. That's because all patients react differently and get different results from **real medical treatments**.

That's also why no ethical doctor would promise or

guarantee ANY results... for ANY treatment. EVER.

In fact - if you do start hearing over-the-top, exaggerated claims like: "cure for knee arthritis" or "eliminates all pain" or "works for everyone" you should run like heck.

But the fact of the matter is: If you qualify for the treatment you are about to discover, there is a good chance you may be able to relieve some or much of your pain.

I know because thousands of knee arthritis sufferers... just like you... have already found the relief you are looking for.

And even better - this might work for you if your pain is new... or if you have advanced knee arthritis that has made it difficult to even walk.

Here's The Treatment And The Embarrassing Moment

The treatment is called viscosupplementation. If you have not heard of this treatment - I will explain how it might help you in just a moment. If you have heard of it - or even had this treatment without good results - this information is a "must read."

Here is why: When you have arthritis, one of the things that happens is the lubricating fluid in your joints depletes. This causes joint surfaces to rub, then grind against each other which causes swelling and pain eventually eating way at the cartilage.

Researchers have developed a natural lubricating gel that can be placed in the arthritic knee joint - this cushions and coats the joint allowing it to glide more smoothly which often decreases pain. Sometimes dramatically. Treatment with this special lubricating gel is called

Advanced Knee Arthritis Treatment Offers New Hope For Pain Sufferers In New York City



Nothing Spreads The Word Like Caring Doctors and Results - Knee arthritis sufferers have swarmed the OsteoRelief Center in Manhattan, NYC and Northern New Jersey ever since word got out of their advanced medical procedure for knee arthritis

Viscosupplementation.

This all sounds great - in theory. But there is a BIG problem with this treatment.

Allow Me To Explain...

While doing research on this treatment, I traveled to a medical clinic in New York City. This clinic had an excellent reputation and I got to speak not only with doctors but with several patients who ranted and raved about the results.

Many said they had tried countless other treatments in the past... including viscosupplementation... but nothing worked until they had viscosupplementation at *this* clinic.

I was skeptical, so I asked one of the doctors why. How could it be possible that the same treatment that did not work when done elsewhere... was getting results when done here?

His response was honest and a little shocking. And the bottom line was...

All Doctors Are Human And Sometimes They Mess Up

I discovered that this treatment must be VERY

PRECISE. In other words, the doctor must be very accurate and actually get the lubricating fluid precisely into the arthritic joint space - or the treatment will be rendered useless.

Many doctors do not want to admit it - but it is very easy to miss the joint space and alter the treatment results.

In fact, research shows that doctors doing these types of joint procedures without advanced imaging may miss the joint space as much as 30% of the time.

Technology To The Rescue

Thankfully technology is solving this problem. How? It's making doctors much more accurate and this treatment much more effective.

Advanced imaging is now available that allows doctors to actually see directly into the joint space and watch the treatment. Doctors can see, or check, if the lubricating fluid goes directly into the joint space - or misses.

The doctor knows if the applied treatment has been a success... or failure... INSTANTLY.

The Difference Between Knee Arthritis Treatment?

Should Know... That Might Be Keeping You In Pain

Here's something incredible: I was able to watch many procedures actually being performed and I was shocked at how many times the doctor thought he had perfect placement... *but the imaging proved him wrong.*

I was amazed how only a *fraction of an inch* would make the difference between success and failure.

The best thing is: When the procedure was not perfect - because of the imaging - the doctor knew instantly and was able to make the slight change necessary and achieve the results they were looking for hitting the targeted painful knee joint.

"Double Confirmation" For Best Results

That's why the doctors at this clinic have taken it one giant

step further to give their patients the best. They do not just use one form of confirmation during treatment - they use two in their "**double confirmation**" process. This is to ensure patients get the best possible results.

It became clear to me that using this advanced imaging and "double confirmation" process just might be why the doctors at this medical clinic get results when others were not.

What Results Can Be Expected?

Like all medical treatments, the results vary and can not be predicted. But many knee arthritis sufferers get dramatic results. It is not uncommon for patients to either postpone knee replacement surgery for years... or even permanently cancel it.

Who Is This For?

This treatment is not for everyone - but if you qualify you may be able to relieve some or all of your pain. That's why OsteoRelief has a new innovation for you...

Your Invitation

OsteoRelief Centers offer a limited number of complimentary knee arthritis treatment screenings every month. These screenings are a way for knee arthritis sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are a candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at OsteoRelief Center. If you would like a complimentary screening, just call **800-227-KNEE (5633)** and tell the scheduling expert who answers the phone, "I would like a complimentary knee arthritis screening."

The screenings fill up fast every month. If you do not call in time to get one this month, the expert will schedule you for next month.

This screening is no cost and there is no further obligation. The best thing about this screening for so many is being able to breathe a big sigh of relief because you finally have hope to relieve your pain and get your life back

Many of the treatments offered at OsteoRelief Institute are covered by many insurance plans and Medicare.

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Why A Fraction Of An Inch Can Be The Difference: Advanced imaging is used to "double confirm" placement of lubricating gel on the surface of the arthritic joint - giving the best possible chance to



Kardashians are back to their old profit-minded ways

Well, that certainly didn't take long. Now that Khloe Kardashian has settled into the long process of helping nurse estranged husband Lamar Odom back to health following his collapse in a Nevada brothel, mom-ager Kris Jenner is reportedly making her an offer she (probably) can't refuse. Jenner is said to be dangling a healthy raise in front of Khloe in exchange for including the Odom story on their reality show, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," according to Radar Online. "Kris knows that the interest in Lamar's crisis will be ratings gold, and so she is promising Khloe a big bump in her payout," a source says.

In other "Oh right, they're Kardashians"



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

news, sister Kim is reportedly not at all happy that all this drama is stealing her pregnancy thunder. "Kim is mad that Khloe's storyline is going to be so prominent on the show," the source explains. "She wants the birth of her son to be the centerpiece and not Lamar's overdose. Kim's also jealous of Khloe getting more money."

She's very competitive with all of her sisters and she likes being the one who gets paid the most, so she is mad at Kris right now."

Bobbi Kristina's hospice nurse was a faker

I don't think anyone saw this one coming: One of the nurses who took care of Bobbi Kristina Brown during her final days was not a nurse at all but an imposter, according to TMZ. Taiwo Sobamowo was

arrested in Georgia this week for identity theft, forgery and impersonating a nurse. Sheriff's officials believe she used the ID of an actual nurse with a similar name to gain employment at the hospice center where Brown was receiving care until her death in July. Sobamowo has apparently done this before at a facility in Washington, D.C., and it's unclear if her ruse was prompted in any way by Brown's stay or if it was just a coincidence.



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MARIO TESTINO

Burberry goes 'Billy Elliot'

The holidays are upon us and so is Burberry's latest festive campaign, featuring Romeo Beckham for a second year in a row and paying tribute to "Billy Elliot," the classic British film that's celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.

Beckham is joined by a pretty impressive cast of fellow Brits taking on the movie's iconic bed-jumping opening sequence, including James Corden, Naomi Campbell, Michelle Dockery and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. Oh, plus appearances by Elton John and "Billy Elliot" star Julie Walters. So, feeling festive?

What we learned from Adele's Rolling Stone interview

1. It took her six months to write "Hello." Six months! "We had half a song written," says producer Greg Kurstin, who didn't know if Adele was ever going to come back and finish it. "I just had to be very patient."

2. She's quit smoking and cut down the drinking. "I absolutely loved it, but it's not that f---ing cool when I'm dying from a smoking-related illness and my kid is, like, devastated," she says. "I used to be able to drink

anyone under the table and still be able to put on an all-right show. But with kids, hangovers are torture. They just know. They pick up on it and just go for you."

3. She wants Bad Girl RiRi in her squad. "I've heard about a squad. I wish my squad was all supermodels. We are, in our brains. I guess I have my own squad," she says. "It's not as interesting as some of the other squads that are around right now. But maybe Rihanna

can be in my squad! That would be really cool."

4. Don't think about pitting her against other pop stars. "I would rather not be that person because that's just pitting a woman against another woman, and I don't hold

any more moral high ground than anyone else. So that has pissed me off a bit."

5. She's a feminist. "I believe that everyone should be treated the same, including race and sexuality." MATT LEE



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Morning you! Tea?

Crazy love



Devlin tries to keep a straight face guiding the sex-crazed singletons on "Are You the One?" airing tonight at 10 p.m. on MTV. **MTV, PROVIDED**

Ryan Devlin enjoys watching single hopefuls flail on "Are You the One?"



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Ryan Devlin is deep into his third season as the host of MTV's reality dating competition "Are You the One?" which puts 20 singles in a house where somewhere among their fellow contestants is a perfect match — they just have to find them. Only this year, it's not really going that well.

What sparked your interest in this show?

I was really taken immediately by the concept. There's nothing like it on television, this idea that everyone can win together. Every reality competition you see out there, there are people being voted off and losing and being told they're not good enough, and then there's one winner at the end. With "Are You the One?" it's totally unique. There's 10 guys and 10 girls — they all suck at dating, and they're brought together to find their perfect match. And if they do it right, not only do they leave the island with love, they leave with a million bucks. Everyone can win. Or, alternately, everyone can lose. They're proving

to be a little bit dumber this year than previous.

How much time do they have left to figure it out?
If these lunatics can come together and find their perfect matches, the show's over. They get 10 tries. They've burned through six, and they're not doing well. They've already lost \$250,000 — they're freaking out. People are dumb, they're still hooking up with people they know aren't their match, and it's ruining things for the house. They have a long way to go.

How much do you think the setting has to do with that?
I think it has a lot to do

with it. It's just paradise. They're in a mansion in Hawaii surrounded by beautiful people who are looking for the same thing they're looking for. It's consequence-free for the most part, and it's completely cut off from anything in the real world that might lead you to check yourself. They don't have Internet, they don't have TV, they don't have phones or contact with friends or family or anybody who might be able to talk sense into them.

What is it like to take a bunch of millennials' phones away?
They do surprisingly well. You would think it would just be the worst thing



ever because everyone at that age is just glued to their screens, but I think we dangle enough other shiny objects in front of them that it doesn't have much of an effect until they get toward the end. That's when they really start to feel the disconnect. It's hard to be in a vacuum that long, but at first it's just a crazy paradise.

You're in a mansion with beautiful people, unlimited alcohol, great food. The question six weeks in is if they find love, can they remain happy? And if they don't find love, will they kill each other?

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Designer Olivier Rousteing talks Instagram and the new collaboration.



TINA CHADHA
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Couture that's (gasp!) affordable? Every fashion lover's dream will come true tomorrow when H&M's epic high-low collaboration with luxury French house Balmain goes on sale.

At a press conference last month, Olivier Rousteing, the 30-year-old creative director behind the label, discussed the collec-

tion and playful campaign video, which finds muse Kendall Jenner engaging in a dance battle.

"Balmain is couture. Balmain is a luxury French house, but it is also me," explained Rousteing. "I'm 30, I love dance, I love music, I love pop. And so we found a way mix it."

With 1.4 million Instagram followers, Rousteing is known for his social media savviness as much as for his high-glam designs. His spring 2016 presentation was the most Insta-grammed fashion show of the season. But what does the designer get in return for putting so much of himself out there?

"You get the feedback

of people that follow you. And you also get the feedback of people who hate you, which is pretty fun," he said. "[Social media] does a really nice job of advertising and showing who you are, what is your vision, what is your aesthetic. It's an honest way to share

Olivier Rousteing



hard."

One hardship that's all too familiar: not being able to afford the high fashion you see coming down the runway. It's why the designer chose to re-create his greatest hits — embellished micromini dresses, high-waisted Hammer pants and big-shouldered blazers — for his collaboration with H&M.

"I remember watching shows and feeling frustrated, wishing I could afford this jacket," he said. "I just want to make sure that people who love Balmain can have that access."



Joan Smalls BFA



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007: Dressed to Kill

Once again, James Bond saves the world in style in the new movie "Spectre." Costume designer Jany Temime reveals the secrets behind the stars' covert clothing.



ELODIE NOEL
Metro World News
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Costume designer Jany Temime, who dressed the cast for "Skyfall" and has previously worked on the Harry Potter franchise, gives 007 (Daniel Craig) a licence to thrill. Tom Ford, Mulberry, British heritage brand Sunspel and shoemaker Crockett & Jones all make overt appearances in the secret agent's wardrobe.

Temime tells us more about the thought process behind Bond's wardrobe.

"Skyfall" versus "Spectre"

After "Skyfall," which I consider a masterpiece, we wanted to do something different. I adopted the same attitude as when I was doing one Harry Potter [film] after another, by telling myself not to try and do better but to do something different. When you deal with such an iconic franchise, you need to respect the heritage and what has



"The white tux is a big 'Spectre' innovation," the costume designer says. SONY

been done before, while innovating constantly.

Dressed to impress

The audience expects a gentleman who epitomizes traditional Britishness. That's what makes him so special compared to "Mission: Impossible"'s Ethan Hunt, for instance. But he needs to be modern. James Bond is a man who lives in 2015, so his style has to evolve over time.

The challenge of "Spectre"

My first reaction was to call Sam Mendes and

tell him, "I won't be able to make a tuxedo that looks better than the midnight blue evening suit in 'Skyfall.'" So it had to be different. Tom Ford sold 15,000 copies of that tux, even though it's not exactly the same as the one in the film, which was my design.

Styling Daniel Craig
Daniel has a great sense of fashion — he just loves it. He knows how to dress up and makes excellent suggestions. He calls the outfits into question, which considerably speeds up the process. We

work well together, and he has this amazing body. He has got a flat stomach, a perfect butt and stunning shoulders; it's easy to dress him up!

Bond's tailoring

His suit is a slim fit. Daniel has an amazing body, and I wanted him to have a dynamic style. I wanted to show that a suit isn't supposed to hide the body but show it off. Because he is able to move freely in his suit, it shows the energy of the body.

The white tux

This is the big "Spectre" innovation. This part of the film takes place in Morocco, and I got inspired by Humphrey Bogart in "Casablanca." I am sure this piece will make a big comeback, thanks to Bond; there is absolutely nothing more elegant than a tanned man in a white jacket. It's so sexy!

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'Peanuts' and other movie adaptations that stayed faithful

"The Peanuts Movie" arrives looking just like the comic strip's storied TV specials. It's hardly the first adaptation of a show to remain true.



MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us



Look familiar? This image from "The Peanuts Movie" re-creates a favorite image from the Peanuts comic strips and old TV specials. TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX



"And Now for Something Completely Different" PROVIDED

Source: "Monty Python's Flying Circus"

As a troupe and individually, Monty Python made several landmark films that kept the spirit of their experimental sketch show without actually being like it. But their first movie was pretty much an exact replica. In fact, it was simply a best-of sketch cavalcade, with greatest

hits (the parrot sketch, "The Lumberjack Song," "Upper-Class Twit of the Year," etc.) re-shot, and with no laugh-track. The reason? They wanted to invade America and no one had heard of them. "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" would later take care of that better than their cinematic debut, but it's still a fine entry point for newbs.



"South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut" PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Source: "South Park"

There's lots and lots and lots of swearing, a couple big name cameo voices, a barrage of musical numbers and even a couple effects that are more than two guys working with construction paper. But the "South Park" movie, which hit theaters in the midst of the show's third season, is basically the same thing, only better

than usual. Indeed, if it did anything it established that the show was no fluke, and that creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone had a true unique angle on America, repression, hypocrisy and anything else they saw fit to satirize. After this the show would be even more giddy about tackling hot button topics, to all of society's betterment.

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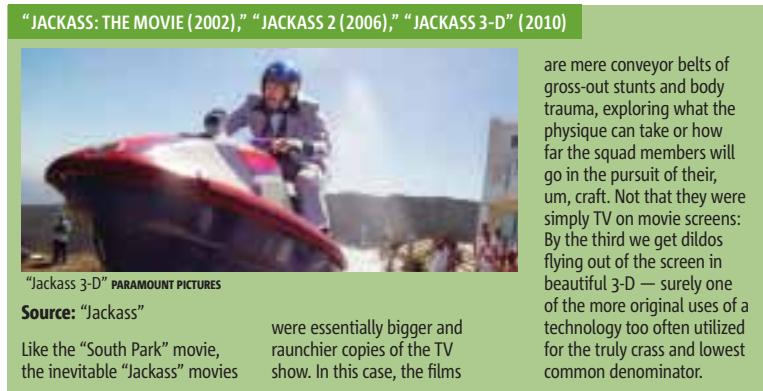
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"Jackass 3-D" PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Source: "Jackass"

Like the "South Park" movie, the inevitable "Jackass" movies

are mere conveyor belts of gross-out stunts and body trauma, exploring what the physique can take or how far the squad members will go in the pursuit of their, um, craft. Not that they were simply TV on movie screens: By the third we get dildos flying out of the screen in beautiful 3-D — surely one of the more original uses of a technology too often utilized for the truly crass and lowest common denominator.

"IN THE LOOP" (2009)

Source: "The Thick of It"

The British political comedy "The Thick of It" has such a strong hook it's been repeated in both "Veep," its American equivalent, and this even more brilliant spin-off film. Like the show, "In the Loop" hangs with always-anxious

bureaucrats as they wheel and deal and creatively curse. (There's a "swearing consultant.") There are now Americans too and a big, Iraq-esque war, but it never loses sight of the basic pleasures, chief among them Peter Capaldi's spin doctor insulting everyone.



"In the Loop" IFC FILMS



Secret garden

Untitled (from the series "In The Vale of Cashmere"), 2011 THOMAS ROMA

A photographer captures a hidden world of gay cruising in Prospect Park.



RAQUEL LANERI
@RaquelLaneri
raquel.laneri@metro.us

The Vale of Cashmere is one of those almost-mythical, untouched parts of New York City you can't quite believe still exists. Originally conceived as a children's playground in the late 19th century, it's now a neglected, overgrown oasis on the northeast end of Brooklyn's Prospect Park, with zig-zagging paths, fountains and a sunken garden.

It's also, like Central Park's far more notorious Ramble, a place where gay men meet and hook up.

"There are people who claim that it has been a gay cruising area for 100 years," says Brooklyn-born photographer Thomas Roma, who has spent three-and-a-half years shooting this hidden sanctuary and the (predominantly black and Latino) men who seek communion and companionship there for his series "In the Vale of Cashmere," which has just been published by PowerHouse Books. "But," he adds, "I talked to many gay friends who had never heard of it. It's very hidden."

Roma had his first brush with the Vale in the 1970s, when he would drive his roommate, Carl, over to Flatbush Avenue, drop him off and watch him enter the wooded area through a tear in a fence. It wasn't until 2001, however, 10 years after Carl had died of AIDS, that he encountered it again.

"I was killing time taking a walk in the park, and I came across this place that was so stunningly beautiful and unique," he recalls. "I saw these men sitting on benches and walking the paths, which led to the top of this ridge, and I looked down and

I saw Flatbush Avenue, and that fence that years before I watched Carl walk through. Once I realized that, I had to stop and think, 'Maybe this is something I should pursue,'" he says.

"In the Vale of Cashmere" is dedicated to Carl, and features 75 black-and-white portraits and landscapes. The images are tender, raw, vulnerable; portraits of a precarious world that — like so many other places in the city — is in danger of disappearing, and the men who have created it.

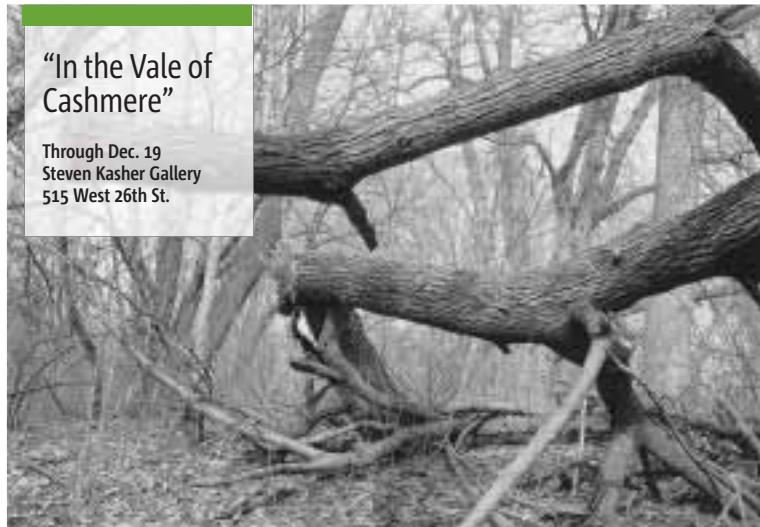
"There was a certain element of desperation to it, visiting the park and thinking maybe this is all

going to go away some day," Roma says. "But I did [the project] because everything about the place struck me as beautiful."

And human: "I was astounded by the capacity for connection. No one I met walked into that park thinking, 'Today I'll be photographed by this crazy Brooklyn photographer.' But 10 minutes later, I'm taking their picture and we're talking about life and beauty. We, all of us, have so much more in common than we realize," he says. "Look at these photographs and perhaps you'll see something of yourself."

"In the Vale of Cashmere"

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Untitled (from the series "In The Vale of Cashmere"), 2010 THOMAS ROMA

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Aries You will gain recognition if you take a leap of faith. Summon up your courage and put all your cards on the table.



Taurus Money matters will be unsettling. Steer clear of anyone looking for a handout. Rely on your instincts, and when in doubt, walk away.



Gemini Make a positive transition. A residential move or change in vocation will work out to your advantage, provided you do your homework first.



Cancer You can improve your current position and maintain your integrity by fulfilling your responsibilities without squabbling.



Leo Do something you haven't done in years. Play an old-fashioned board game or cards and have some fun with friends or family.



Virgo Love is on the rise, but you are best to use affection, not words, to seal the deal. You will find the answers to any questions you have if you listen.



Libra Even if you are in total disagreement with what is being said, give whoever you are debating a fair chance to air his or her views.



Scorpio Trying to convince someone to see things your way will be futile. Don't waste your time when you should be taking care of your responsibilities.



Sagittarius If someone from your past wants to reconnect, speak from the heart. Cut your losses rather than make the same mistake twice.



Capricorn If you agree to take on someone else's responsibilities, make sure you are fully aware of what's expected of you.



Aquarius Honesty will help keep a relationship issue to a minimum. Don't allow someone's negativity to prevent you from accepting an appealing offer.



Pisces Deal with distressing news regarding a senior citizen you know with compassion. Do all you can to keep family ties from unraveling. **EUGENIA LAST**

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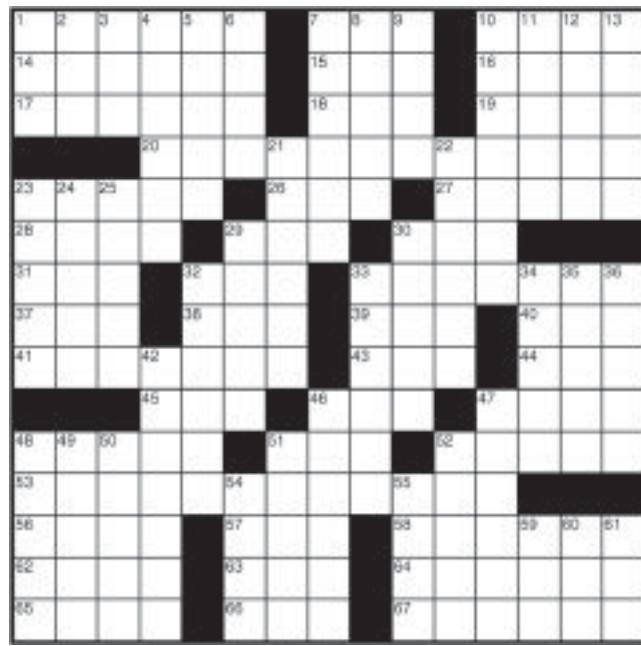
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hard

metro.us/crossword



(hyph.)

- 1 Mariachi gig
- 56 Lorre's detective
- 7 Yes in Yokohama
- 57 Tie-dyed garment
- 10 "For the Boys"
- 58 Orchid-like flowers
- actor
- 62 Unknown auth.
- 14 Treaty members
- 63 Horse's morsel
- 15 Thunder Bay prov.
- 64 Vacation option
- 16 Low voice
- 65 Nine-digit IDs
- 17 Mildew
- 66 Paper towel thickness
- 18 Not sm. or med.
- 67 Tiny village

Down

- 1 "When We Was —"
- 2 Under par
- 3 Ivy Leaguer
- 4 Gave autographs
- 5 Snicker (hyph.)
- 6 Movie terrier
- 7 Delay
- 8 High dudgeon
- 9 Roman route
- 10 Hoarding away
- 11 Pen name
- 12 In the least (2 wds.)
- 13 Bronco snagger
- 14 Codgers' queries
- 15 Carson City's state
- 16 Cylindrical bar
- 17 Jacket part
- 18 Birthday count
- 19 Aloha in Rome
- 20 Source of some genes
- 21 Grand Tour cont.
- 22 Ticket info
- 23 Rocky debris
- 24 Apron wearer
- 25 Sports award
- 30 Natural elev.
- 31 CPR pro
- 32 — step further
- 33 Snoopy and others
- 34 Open meadow
- 35 Memo acronym
- 36 Natural ele.
- 37 Snicker (hyph.)
- 38 Cylindrical bar
- 39 Jacket part
- 40 Birthday count
- 41 Tortilla fried until crisp
- 42 Apron wearer
- 43 Memo acronym
- 44 Hex halved
- 45 Codgers' queries
- 46 Broncos org.
- 47 Spotted
- 48 "Maria —"
- 49 Fossil fuel
- 50 Nut cake
- 51 Easy to deal with

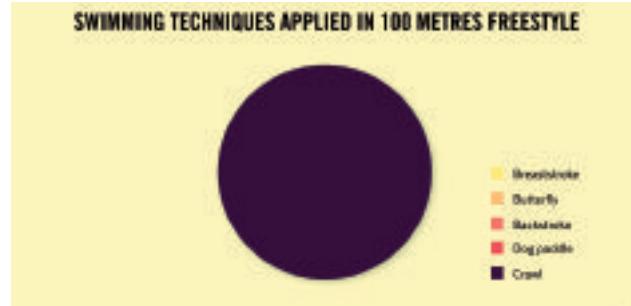
Rudner

- 36 Trawler net
- 37 Frames of mind
- 38 Ms. Streep of films
- 39 Kind of cracker
- 40 "Maria —"
- 41 Stump
- 42 SineWS
- 43 Stump
- 44 Down the road
- 45 Leggy bird
- 46 XC
- 47 Element in salt
- 48 Peel and Bovary
- 49 Veld growers
- 50 John of "Crocodile
- 51 Cager Shaq
- 52 — incognita
- 53 Upon
- 54 Made with cream
- 55 — vous plait
- 56 Wind dir.

For crossword answers, go to [metro.us/crossword-answers](#)



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According to a recent survey, 88 percent of property managers have raised their rents in the past 12 months.

**MONICA WEYMOUTH
@MetroNewYork
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When you rent, you get used to little inconveniences. The ferrets next door, the rock band upstairs, the absentee maintenance man and his perpetually full voice-mail box: These are all to be expected. One thing you probably haven't gotten used to over the past couple years? That rapidly rising rent check.

The good news — if you can call it that — is that you're not alone. According to Rent.com's recent Property Manager report, 88 percent of property managers nationwide have raised their rents in the past 12 months. Not

only that, but 68 percent of those surveyed predict that their rents will rise by an average of 8 percent in the next year. That's a lot of percents when it comes to the first of the month.

According to Niccole Schreck, senior brand manager at Rent.com, we're witnessing a classic case of supply and demand. More Americans are renting, and there simply aren't enough available units to keep up.

"Since the housing bust, there has been a definitive shift toward more Americans opting to rent

Now more than ever, living in the city comes at a price. "Reduced crime rates are making cities more popular, so more people want to move here, not just visit," explains Warshawer.

rather than buy. The stigmas attached to renting have dropped, and many now see renting as the safer, easier, more flexible and, at times, more affordable option," she says. "The notion of the American dream of owning a home has less value than it used to."

While developers are responding to the demand and building new rental properties, these are very rarely affordable options. "Rental construction doesn't translate to rents going down," explains Gabby Warshawer, director of research at New York-based CityRealty. "Land costs are high, building costs are high, and they're going to look to recoup that."

So what's a renter to do? Schreck recommends shopping smart when it comes time to move. "If possible, look to move in the winter months," she advises. "While there will likely be even less inventory than the peak summer months, this often results in more flexibility on price from the landlord. They want to make sure they can fill their vacancies as soon as possible, so you have more wiggle room to negotiate here."

By the numbers

45%

According to Rent.com's survey, 45 percent of property managers reported seeing an increase in the number of millennials opting to rent, creating an even greater demand. Student loans and post-recession incomes are contributing factors, says Schreck.

6.8%

Vacancy rates for rental housing fell to 6.8 percent in the second quarter of 2015, the lowest it has been in nearly 20 years.

Cities are trending up

The (heavily trafficked) road to the Bronx

While the buzz is raging, challenges remain for the borough, from perception to pollution.

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

THE REAL DEAL
New York's Real Estate News Weekly

When Carnegie Management converted a former piano factory in the South Bronx into residential lofts in 2002, the firm was way ahead of the curve.

Fast-forward more than a decade, and Carnegie is at it again, with a second planned residential tower at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and East 134th Street.

But this time the firm is not alone. Developers searching for the next "it" neighborhood are clamoring to get in on the ground floor before the South Bronx takes off.

But while the buzz about the Bronx is reaching an all-time high, investing there comes with some significant challenges.

Air, land and noise pollution chief among the concerns, particularly in areas such as the South Bronx, where the borough's vast network of highways loudly deposits trucks onto local roads every few minutes.

Beyond the economic forces that derailed the Bronx's renaissance in the past, there are other concerns.

For one, not all prop-

Gentrification debate

In recent months, a chorus of local voices has expressed concern about residents and businesses being priced out. Many of those complaints have been lobbed toward the decidedly pro-development borough president, Ruben Diaz Jr. Diaz argued that residents are not being displaced by rezoning efforts.

Instead, elected officials are

Perception

While the perception of crime-addled streets has largely been dispelled — crime is down 75 percent since 1990 — not all investors are eager to throw their money down in the Bronx.

Even Somerset Partners' Keith Rubenstein, who is developing multiple residential buildings on the waterfront, acknowledged a lingering stigma. "Once you get people over the fact that once they cross the Harlem River they won't fall off the world," he said, "they open their eyes and say 'Wow, this is unbelievable.'"

Can the South Bronx become the new Williamsburg? iSTOCK



Real estate developers Somerset Partners and the Chetrit Group held a star-packed art party last week to rebrand the historic South Bronx Piano District.

GETTY IMAGES

erty owners are ready to cash in on their suddenly hot assets, particularly those who've owned sites for generations.

"If they're running their business out of the property, more than likely they will stay there," said Eastern Consolidated's Martin Ezratty, who represented the seller of 101 Lincoln Ave., which Somerset Partners and the Chetrit Group bought for \$32 million in September.

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Kristaps Porzingis is averaging 11.8 points and 8.3 rebounds so far this season. GETTY IMAGES

Porzingis looks like real deal in the early-going

The Knicks rookie is making his many critics look foolish thus far.

TONY WILLIAMS
@TBone8
sports@metro.us

The season is only four games old, and the Knicks have broken even so far in the standings, but there's a considerable buzz around the facilities and within the fan base, and that's essentially owed to one guy — and for once, it's not Carmelo Anthony.

Kristaps Porzingis has been a very pleasant surprise for the Knicks — and particularly for the team's followers who booed the fourth-overall pick. But as of right now, the Latvian rookie is proving the doubters wrong, as he's off to a very solid start.

Sure, his early success is a small sample size, but Porzingis' intensity has been a breath of fresh air for a Knicks squad that suffered through lethargy and apathy during last season's 17-win campaign. His intensity was on display during Monday night's affair against the San Antonio Spurs as he notched his first-career double-double with 13 points and 14 rebounds. The rookie also added two blocks and had the play of the game when he crammed home a tip-dunk over LaMarcus Aldridge that shook the Garden. Yes, the Knicks fell short, but to have that kind of personal success is something Porzingis can build upon and quite possibly help lift the Knicks into the bottom-rung of the playoff race.

Porzingis said he was "fired up" to go against the likes of Aldridge and the future Hall of Fame trio of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, and it showed. So much so that even the usually stoic Duncan

gave props, calling Porzingis "impressive."

Knicks head coach Derek Fisher has been pleased with the work ethic and development of his prized rookie, noting the brutal 10-game stretch to open the season — continuing with Wednesday night's showdown with LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers — can only help Porzingis improve and strengthen his resolve even more.

"For [Porzingis], to play against the type of teams that we are playing against to start the season is gonna force him to raise up to another level — and if not, you can get embarrassed," Fisher said. "But he's competing hard every night. And I thought that was on display. Him, all the guys, are competing and fighting hard. ... Kris is definitely showing a lot of heart and fight and grit. And we need that."

The fight may have to be delayed for a few games, as Porzingis is dealing with a strained neck that he suffered in the third quarter of Monday's game when Anthony was cut from under in midair and landed on the rookie's head as Porzingis was scrambling for a loose ball. X-rays on Porzingis' neck were negative, as the Knicks have deemed it a soft-tissue injury. He'll continue to be evaluated.

Porzingis didn't seem too worried, though, noting it's just "stiffness" in his neck and that "it's nothing serious."

"For now I think I'm good for tomorrow. If I

New, improved

The Knicks are 2-2 on the season heading into tonight's game against the Cavaliers in Cleveland (8 p.m., MSG). Monday's 94-84 loss to the always-strong Spurs was the first time this season that the Knicks did not crack 100 points. Here's what lies ahead for the Knicks:

Tonight at Cleveland (8 p.m., MSG)

Friday vs. Milwaukee (7:30 p.m., MSG)

Sunday vs. LA Lakers (3:30 p.m., MSG)

Tuesday at Toronto (7:30 p.m., MSG)

get feeling better tomorrow, I'll be able to go for sure," said Porzingis. "My long, flexible neck is fine."

Anthony, who didn't even know it was Porzingis that he landed on, said the rookie "seems OK," and expressed the same logic he's used when asked about the progress and return of Arron Afflalo, who'll likely be out a couple of weeks due to a hamstring malady. Anthony noted there shouldn't be any rush back to the lineup for Porzingis until he's fully ready.

Regardless of who's playing tomorrow, Anthony said he likes the resolve this team has built already and feels they can weather the early storm.

"I believe that we're going to be OK," Anthony said. "We're only four games into the season, and we've had some guys dealing with nagging injuries, and we still haven't shot our best yet, but we've been in both losses. ... We're right there. It's just a matter of us putting it together for a whole game and being consistent with that."

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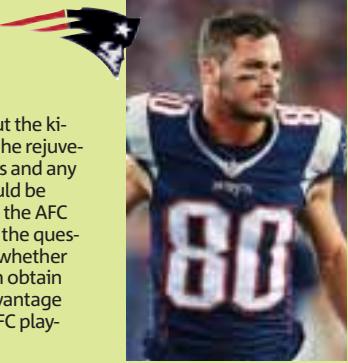
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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Patriots (7-0)

The Patriots put the kibosh on both the rejuvenated Dolphins and any ideas they would be challenged for the AFC East title. Now the question becomes whether or not they can obtain home field advantage through the AFC playoffs.



No. 4

Panthers (7-0)

The Panthers are still undefeated this season when Cam Newton gets at least 10 carries. And when literally anything else happens. They've now run the gamut of Seattle, Philadelphia and Indianapolis, and if they finish it up with a win against Green Bay next week, who can't they beat?

No. 6

Cardinals (6-2)

Chris Johnson continues to show no signs of slowing down this season as he carried the rock 30 times, the first time he's done that since 2010. Carson Palmer and the rest of the offense got on track again in Cleveland, and they didn't even need John Brown, so he can use their bye to get healthy.

No. 8

Rams (4-3)

The Rams held onto second place in the NFC West with a division win that followed the same formula as their previous two wins: pound the rock on offense and play great defense. The passing game still hasn't gotten on track, as they sit dead last at 32nd in passing yardage per game.

No. 10

Jets (4-3)

Well, if Oakland's a top 10 team, are we expecting the Jets to beat a top 10 team with Geno Smith at the helm? That may not be a fair question, as Geno didn't play terribly in his first action since a teammate broke his jaw. Chris Ivory hasn't broken 50 yards rushing in two straight weeks.

No. 2

Broncos (7-0)

The defense proved they could do it against anyone, even Aaron Rodgers. But the bigger revelation was the Denver offense, which saw the best games of the season from Peyton Manning, C.J. Anderson and Demaryius Thomas. Add to that the fact that they've liberated Vernon Davis from San Francisco.

No. 3

Bengals (7-0)

It wasn't pretty, but this was exactly the game Cincinnati has lost in the past. Andy Dalton played his worst game of the season, and then led a fourth quarter touchdown drive for the lead, the game, and a three-and-a-half game lead over Pittsburgh, their only competition in the division.

No. 5

Packers (6-1)

Both the Green Bay defense and offense were absent in Week 8. The defense allowed the Broncos offense, dismal so often this season, to roll right over them for 500 total yards. The offense meanwhile, endured a career low 77 passing yards from Aaron Rodgers.

No. 7

Vikings (5-2)

It's not always pretty, and the wins aren't all against the best competition, but the Vikings have the eighth best record in the NFL, and are all alone in the second wild card spot in the NFC. Nobody has stopped Stefon Diggs yet. The second half of the schedule will test the Vikings, however.

No. 9

Raiders (4-3)

It wasn't easy to do, but the Raiders are inside the top 10. They're eighth in the league in points per game and ninth in total offense and turnover differential, and they're winning games, which many of the "better" teams are struggling to do. For that reason, they hold the top wildcard spot in the AFC.

No. 21

Giants (4-4)

Is there something we don't know about the NFC East division title? Because no one seems to want that thing. Especially not the Giants. One week after throwing for 170 yards and no scores in a win against Dallas, Eli Manning threw for 350 yards and six touchdowns in a loss. What?

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Mullin gets started on building something special at St. John's

Chris Mullin is confident he can get St. John's hoops back to national prominence.

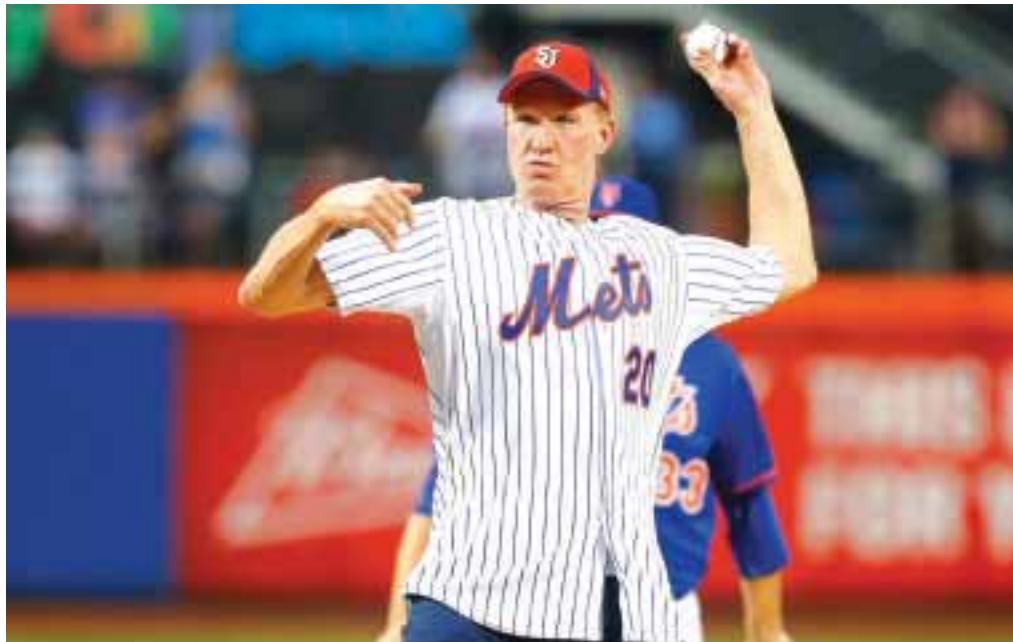
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Before a St. John's game, Regina's Pizzeria and Café is usually decked out in red, filled with fans grabbing a slice before making the quick walk to Carneseca Arena. There are a handful of seats inside, a flat screen and one sports jersey — a white top with red lettering spelling out MULLIN and the No. 20.

Chris Mullin is New York City basketball. He came up through the ranks of New York City's prep scene to play at St. John's during the peak of the Big East, three times being named to the all-conference team and leading the program to the 1985 Final Four. His NBA career is no secret, from five All-Star appearances to being a part of that first Dream Team.

And now he returns to campus as head coach. It is a hiring that was long overdue.

Mullin's approach remains similar to the one he cultivated as an NBA general manager:



Chris Mullin throws out the first pitch at a Mets game earlier this year. GETTY IMAGES

Assemble talent, foster confidence and put forward an environment that people want to be in.

"We have a tremendous group of guys who share the basketball. Right now we're learning when to move the ball, and a lot of the shots should create themselves," Mullin said. "I believe we've done a tremendous job of realizing that [spreading the ball] is the way to play. Ultimately, I want our

"It's up to us. We are really free to express our way to play."

St. John's guard Federico Mussini

guys to be very comfortable on the floor."

Part of that was hiring a staff that brings not just knowledge of the game but who are excellent recruiters. Sprinkle in an assistant with NBA experience such as Mitch Richmond and Mullin

has the Johnnies pointed toward success.

But in a stacked conference, the recruiting victories that are sure to come down the road won't help beat Villanova, Butler and Georgetown this year.

"I strongly feel we can

return to the NCAA tournament," junior forward Chris Jones said. "Everyone is adjusting well and getting accustomed to all the new faces."

The November signing period promises to be a big win for St. John's, because what the school is offering on the court is not available anywhere in the country. An opportunity to play for two Hall of Famers is a big deal. Freshman, Malik Ellison — the son of Pervis Ellison — an

11-year NBA veteran, discussed how the opportunity to play for Mullin affected his decision to attend St. John's.

"He's been everywhere that I'm trying to get to," Ellison said. "He's been to the highest level. I want to play at the next level. He was the best coach that can get me there."

Fellow freshman Marcus Lovett agrees.

"I can't pass up being coached by a Hall of Famer, Olympian, original Dream Team member," he said. "Knowing Mullin was coming to coach here cemented my decision."

Fans can expect the Run TMC influence this season, the 1989-1991 Golden State Warrior offensive attack that he, Tim Hardaway and Richmond made famous. St. John's will play a fast paced NBA style where the team will look to push the tempo and take 3-point shot opportunities. Mullin knows that mistakes will be made — "that's basketball" — but the players should not be looking over their shoulders.

"They let us play however we want, more or less, there are some plays," freshman point guard Federico Mussini said. "It's up to us. We are really free to express our way to play."

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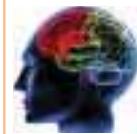
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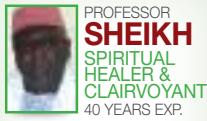
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DAYS PRIOR TO
PUBLICATION AT 4 PM.**



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

Give your wardrobe an overhaul
at Macy's Men's Designer Event!

MACY'S HERALD SQUARE

NOV
05 | Look your best for Fall
Men's Department
Thursday at 6pm



Noah Syndergaard



Jacob deGrom

Hey, guys! Macy's, GQ and Human Rights Campaign are kicking off the season in style! Check out the latest trends from Impulse and our top-name designers, including Buffalo David Bitton, Nautica, Kenneth Cole, I-N-C, Guess, Michael Kors, Armani Jeans, and more. Sports fan? Meet New York pro-baseball players **Noah Syndergaard** and **Jacob deGrom** with a Buffalo David Bitton purchase of \$100 or more*! Shop Autumn's top collections while enjoying great music, food, and cocktails, and save 25% on Men's Designer or Impulse purchases of \$75 or more. Plus, spend \$200 in Menswear and receive a complimentary gift**!

Reservations are encouraged. To RSVP, visit mensdesigner15.eventbrite.com. A donation of \$10 is suggested and all proceeds will benefit the Human Rights Campaign.

 macy's
.com

Event and baseball player appearances are subject to change or cancellation. *One photo opportunity per person. No personal memorabilia will be signed. While supplies last and time permits. Purchase must be made at Macy's Herald Square on 11/5/15. **One gift per qualifying purchase. Some exclusions may apply, see store associate for details.

 HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN